

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

I don't trust Hollywood and recording industry interests to determine who should and should not be allowed to innovate, and I don't believe that citizens should be treated as thieves. Neither consumers nor artists will benefit if I have to make a separate purchase for every device in every room of my house.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

I am very concerned that restrictions on peer to peer collective action will restrict the abilities of citizens to band together to help scientists tackle important health-related issues (see <http://www.folding.stanford.edu> for example)

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Where would the personal computer industry be without users who modified software and changed the nature of the medium -- 19 year old Harvard dropout Bill Gates, for example? Where would the Internet be without millions of users who were free to innovate -- Swiss physicist Tim Berners-Lee, for example? A healthy and innovative digital technology industry requires users to be free to innovate, not to be passive consumers who cannot modify, experiment, and extend the media.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

If all future innovators will have to be employees of Disney, Time-Warner-AOL, Microsoft, where will the Microsofts, Apples, and WWWs of tomorrow come from?

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

What happens to the costs of anything when competition is reduced and innovation is limited?

Other Comments:

An artist/innovator-controlled micropayment system that is not overseen by existing vested interests would solve the problem of protecting intellectual property without stifling innovation.